



## Backcountry Camping

### Backcountry Camping Within Big Thicket National Preserve

Developed camping areas have not been established within Preserve boundaries. Backpacking and camping on sandbars are allowed in certain units. A free backcountry permit is required and can be obtained at the Preserve visitor center. Call 409-951-6700 for more information.

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### Backcountry Camping Areas

Backcountry camping is allowed in the following units: Beaumont, Beech Creek, Big Sandy Creek, Big Sandy Creek Corridor, Canyonlands, Lance Rosier, Neches Bottom and Jack Gore Baygall, Turkey Creek, Upper and Lower Neches River Corridor, and Village Creek.

The Lance Rosier Unit and Neches Bottom and Jack Gore Baygall Unit are closed to camping during hunting season. However, camping is allowed on sandbars along the Neches River in the Neches Bottom and Jack Gore Baygall Unit during hunting season. Some portions of the Beaumont Unit, Beech Creek Unit, and Big Sandy Creek Unit are closed to camping during hunting season.

Camping is not allowed in the Hickory Creek Unit, Little Pine Island-Pine Island Bayou Corridor, Loblolly Unit, or Menard Creek Unit.

Camping is not allowed within 350 yards of the Pitcher Plant Trail or along the Kirby Nature Trail south of the metal bridge over Village Creek.

Camping is not allowed in any area posted as a Day Use Area. This includes the Lakeview Sandbar on the Neches River and the White Sand Beach Sandbar and Island Sandbar on Village Creek. Check with visitor center staff for a complete list of Day Use areas.

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### Backcountry Safety

Please be **SAFE**: Be aware of outdoor conditions. Use insect repellent. Beware of venomous snakes, poison ivy, and fire ants. Open water is not potable; please bring all drinking water or treat collected water before use.

Do not rest or camp beneath dead or dying trees. Carry a first aid kit, map, and compass. Please become familiar with the special regulations listed on the back.

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### Camping Permits

A free backcountry camping permit is required and **must be obtained by a member of the party prior to camping**.

To obtain a backcountry camping permit, visit the Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center, located eight miles north of Kountze, Texas, on FM 420. The Visitor Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day. For more information, call (409) 951- 6700.

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**Camping  
Regulations**

**A backcountry permit is required before overnight use is allowed.** Before you leave on your camping trip, please inform a friend or family member of your intended point of entry, route of travel, and time of return. In the event of an emergency, call 911 or Park Watch at 1-800-793-6566.

**Campsites must be located at least 200 feet from all roads, trails, and unit boundaries and at least 100 feet from all water. Campsites on sandbars may be within 25 feet of the water line.**

Some banks of the Neches River and Village Creek are privately owned, such as the bar at Sheffield's Ferry. You may not camp on private land without the landowner's permission.

**Open fires and charcoal are allowed in all areas of the preserve that are open to camping, except during established burn bans.** Fires must not be left unattended and must be completely extinguished before leaving the area. All charcoal and ashes must be completely extinguished and scattered. Camp stoves are allowed in all areas.

Trenching or leveling the ground for tents or toilet purposes is prohibited.

**Human waste must be buried 6"- 8" deep and at least 50 feet from any trail or water. Toilet paper must be carried out.**

**Pack out all trash. Burying or burning trash is strictly prohibited!**

**Possession of glass containers on water courses and sandbars is prohibited.**

**Group size is limited to eight people.** Groups must camp far enough from each other to maintain visual and noise separation.

**Backcountry use is limited to five days per trip.**

**Motorized vehicles are prohibited on trails.**

**Horses and bicycles are allowed only on the Big Sandy Trail.**

**Backcountry camping is not allowed in areas open to hunting during the hunting season,** with the exception of sandbars along the Neches River in the Neches Bottom and Jack Gore Baygall Unit. Dates of hunting season vary each year and may be obtained at the Visitor Center or by calling (409) 951-6700.